

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Peter Weir, Minister
Rathgael House, Balloo Road
Bangor, BT19 7PR

Mr Doug Beattie MLA
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont

19 March 2020
AQW 3065/17-22

Mr Doug Beattie MLA has asked:

The Minister of Education to outline (i) how many children in the Upper Bann constituency were suspended or expelled from school, in each of the last five years, broken down by primary and post-primary school; and (ii) the reasons for these suspensions and expulsions.

ANSWER

(i) I have arranged for a table containing the numbers of pupils suspended in the Upper Bann constituency for the most recent five years for which data are available, 2013/14 to 2017/18 to be placed in the Assembly Library.

It is not possible to disaggregate the number of pupils expelled by school type and constituency.

(ii) I have arranged for a table containing the reasons for each suspension occasion in the Upper Bann constituency for the most recent five years for which data are available, 2013/14 to 2017/18, to be placed in the Assembly Library.

It is not possible to disaggregate the reasons for pupils' expulsions by school type and constituency.



Peter Weir MLA

AQW 3065/17-22

19 March 2020

Doug Beattie MLA has asked:

Question: To ask the Minister of Education to outline (i) how many children in the Upper Bann constituency were suspended or expelled from school, in each of the last five years, broken down by primary and post-primary school; and (ii) the reasons for these suspensions and expulsions.

Table 1: Pupils suspended in the Upper Bann constituency.

Year	Number of pupils in primary schools suspended	Number of pupils in post-primary schools suspended
2013/14	19	182
2014/15	14	193
2015/16	34	205
2016/17	26	250
2017/18	36	311

Source: The Education Authority.

1. These data refers to pupils of statutory school age.

Table 2: Reasons for suspension occasions for pupils suspended in the Upper Bann constituency.

Reason	2017/18		2016/17		2015/16		2014/15		2013/14	
	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary
Substance abuse	0	6	0	19	0	*	0	*	0	*
Alcohol abuse	0	6	0	*	0	5	0	*	0	8
Bullying of a pupil	0	11	*	9	*	*	*	7	0	*
Verbal abuse of a pupil	*	10	*	5	*	9	0	6	*	6
Physical attack on a pupil	20	154	23	118	28	81	11	79	9	67
Disruptive behaviour in class	11	60	*	47	6	39	5	27	*	41
Persistent infringement of relatively minor school rules	7	194	*	119	*	100	*	108	*	78
Significant damage to property	*	28	0	33	0	30	0	11	0	21

Reason	2017/18		2016/17		2015/16		2014/15		2013/14	
	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary	Primary	Post-primary
Stealing	*	5	*	8	0	*	0	10	0	7
Verbal abuse of staff	8	135	8	87	5	95	*	95	*	71
Physical attack on staff	10	9	5	8	7	13	*	10	9	5
Total	64	618	45	456	52	383	22	357	30	310

Source: The Education Authority.

Notes:

1. The table refers to the reason for each suspension occasion. The number of suspension occasions is greater than the number of pupils suspended as a pupil may be suspended on more than one occasion in any year.
2. These data refers to pupils of statutory school age.
3. * indicates a number between one and four, inclusive, that has been suppressed to ensure as far as possible the confidentiality of the pupil is maintained.